

Claims

1. A content delivery method comprising establishing a set of user preferences related to delivery of content, sourcing content in response to a request received from a terminal connected to a network and selecting based on said set of user preferences a network over which to deliver said content to said terminal.
2. A method as claimed in claim 1, comprising maintaining in an agent a log of sourced content relating to the request.
3. A method as claimed in claim 2, comprising maintaining in the log an indication of the delivery status of the content.
4. A method as claimed in any preceding claim, comprising acknowledging receipt of the content over a or the duplex network.
5. A method as claimed in claim 3 and claim 4, comprising updating the delivery status of the log on receiving an acknowledgement receipt.
6. A method as claimed in any preceding claim, comprising notifying over a duplex network the terminal prior to the delivery of content over a simplex network.
7. A method as claimed in any preceding claim, in which the user preferences relate to cost and/or delivery timing preferences.
8. A method as claimed in any preceding claim, comprising reviewing content items on a data carousel, and determining from the reviewing step if any forthcoming content matches the user request.
9. A method as claimed in any preceding claim, comprising conducting a search for content relating to the request, preferably using the internet.

10. A method as claimed in any preceding claim, comprising storing in a or the agent information relating to the last update of content relating to the request.

11. A method as claimed in any preceding claim, comprising storing in a or the agent information relating to the user's time and/or frequency of updating preferences.

12. A method as claimed in any preceding claim, comprising storing in a or the agent information relating to domains to which searching relating to the content request is limited.

13. A method as claimed in any preceding claim, comprising storing in an agent user preferences relating to plural users.

14. A method as claimed in claim 13, comprising sourcing an item of content, and sending the content to plural users.

15. A method as claimed in claim 14, comprising maintaining in the agent a log of which users have received the item of content.

16. A method as claimed in any of claims 13 to 15, in which the plural users each are able to define a relevance level of content of which they require delivery.

17. A method as claimed in any of claims 13 to 16, comprising periodically sourcing content, and using the user preferences for the plural users to determine which users the content is required by.

18. An agent connectable to a network, the agent being operable to establish a set of user preferences relating to delivery of content to a user terminal, to source content in response to a user request, and to deliver said content to a user terminal over a network selected in dependence on said set of user preferences.

19. An agent as claimed in claim 18, arranged to maintain a log of sourced content relating to the request.

20. An agent as claimed in claim 19, arranged to maintain in the log an indication of the delivery status of the content.

21. An agent as claimed in any of claims 18 to 20, arranged to update the delivery status of the log on receiving an acknowledgement receipt.

22. An agent as claimed in any of claims 18 to 21, in which the user preferences relate to cost and/or delivery timing preferences.

23. An agent as claimed in any of claims 18 to 22, comprising means for reviewing content items on a data carousel, and means for determining from the reviewing step if any forthcoming content matches the user request.

24. An agent as claimed in any of claims 18 to 22, comprising means for searching for content relating to the request.

25. An agent as claimed in any of claims 18 to 24, comprising means for storing information relating to the last update of content relating to the request.

26. An agent as claimed in any of claims 18 to 25, comprising means for storing information relating to the user's time and/or frequency of updating preferences.

27. An agent as claimed in any of claims 18 to 25, comprising means for storing information relating to domains to which searching relating to the content request is limited.

28. An agent as claimed in any of claims 18 to 27, comprising means for storing user preferences relating to plural users.

29. An agent as claimed in claim 28, comprising means for sourcing an item of content, and for sending the content to plural users.

30. An agent as claimed in claim 29, comprising means for maintaining a log of which users have received the item of content.

31. An agent as claimed in any of claims 28 to 30, in which the agent is arranged to store for at least some of the plural users a relevance level of content of which delivery is required.

32. An agent as claimed in any of claims 28 to 31, comprising means for periodically sourcing content, and for using the user preferences for the plural users to determine which users the content is required by.

33. A content delivery system comprising a first duplex network, a second network and a user terminal connectable to said first and second networks, wherein the system further comprises an agent connectable to said first and second networks, the agent being operable to source content in response to a user request received from said user terminal via said first network, and to deliver said content to said terminal over a network selected in accordance with a set of user preferences.

34. A system as claimed in claim 33, in which the user preferences are established by the agent.

35. A system as claimed in claim 33, in which the user preferences are generated by the terminal.

36. A system as claimed in any of claims 33 to 35, in which the second network is a simplex network.

37. A system as claimed in claim 36, comprising means for notifying over the first network the terminal prior to the delivery of content over the second network.

38. A system as claimed in any of claims 33 to 35, in which the second network is a duplex network.

5 39. A system as claimed in any of claims 33 to 38, in which the agent is arranged to maintain a log of sourced content relating to the request.

40. A system as claimed in claim 39, in which the agent is arranged to maintain in the log an indication of the delivery status of the content.

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41. A system as claimed in any of claims 33 to 40, in which the terminal is arranged to acknowledge receipt of the content over the duplex network or one of the duplex networks.

15 42. A system as claimed in claim 40 and claim 41, in which the agent is arranged to update the delivery status in the log on receiving an acknowledgement receipt.

43. A system as claimed in any of claims 33 to 42, in which the user preferences relate to cost and/or delivery timing preferences.

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44. A system as claimed in any of claims 33 to 43, comprising means for reviewing content items on a data carousel, and means for determining from the reviewing step if any forthcoming content matches the user request.

25 45. A system as claimed in any of claims 33 to 44, comprising means for conducting a search for content relating to the request, preferably using the internet.

46. A system as claimed in any of claims 33 to 45, in which the agent is arranged to store information relating to the last update of content relating to the request.

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47. A system as claimed in any of claims 33 to 46, in which the agent is arranged to store information relating to the user's time and/or frequency of updating preferences.

48. A system as claimed in any of claims 33 to 47, in which the agent is comprising storing in a or the agent information relating to domains to which searching relating to the content request is limited.

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49. A system as claimed in any of claims 33 to 48, in which the agent comprises means for storing user preferences relating to plural users.

50. A system as claimed in claim 49, in which the agent comprises means for sourcing an item of content, and for sending the content to plural users.

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51. A system as claimed in claim 50, comprising means for maintaining a log of which users have received the item of content.

52. A system as claimed in any of claims 49 to 51, in which the agent is arranged to store for at least some of the plural users a relevance level of content of which delivery is required.

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53. A system as claimed in any of claims 49 to 52, in which the agent comprises means for periodically sourcing content, and for using the user preferences for the plural users to determine which users the content is required by

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